

PRESS RELEASE

May 11, 2015

Juror Appreciation Week May 11 – May 15, 2015

In conjunction with Law Day 2015, our Court will celebrate Juror Appreciation Week. Juror Appreciation Week is part of the Law Day celebration that was established in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower to commemorate our nation's great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law. Held annually in early May, Juror Appreciation Week is designed to recognize citizens who have served on juries and to send a positive message to the public about the importance of jury service.

This year's Law Day was inspired in part by the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, which established the principle that no man or government is above the law. Together with the Federal Bar Association, the Southern District of Florida hosted Law Day Programs in U.S. Courthouses to educate area high school students.

Chief United States District Judge K. Michael Moore announced today that the Southern District of Florida is sponsoring Juror Appreciation Week [May 11–May 15, 2015] to recognize residents who have completed jury duty and to highlight the honor and importance of serving on a jury.

According to Chief Judge K. Michael Moore, "The goal of Juror Appreciation Week is to thank our jurors for their service. Jury Duty allows regular people to get up close and personal with one of the most powerful institutions in our society. The integrity of our system separates us from many other countries and is a large part of what makes this country great. It is the responsibility of our jurors to ensure the integrity of the system."

The Southern District of Florida is one of the busiest trial courts in the federal judiciary, issuing jury summons to over 100,000 jurors annually, from Fort Pierce to Key West, with approximately 12,000 jurors being called to report to courthouses annually. "We recognize that jury service is an imposition on the time and lives of our jurors. But a busy court like ours, which is among the leaders in the nation in jury trials every year, simply could not function without civic minded, dedicated jurors," said Moore.

Jurors that are participating in petit and grand juries during Juror Appreciation Week will be provided special refreshments and will have various Judges and the Clerk of Court participating in juror orientations. Special certificates will be issued commemorating their service. The Court's website, www.flsd.uscourts.gov, will be updated to reflect our juror appreciation and to provide information about the history of jury service.

Chief Judge Moore noted: "We want every juror to feel appreciated. The Judges and staff of the Southern District of Florida value their time and contribution to our system of justice."

Please contact Steven M. Larimore, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court, if you have any questions.

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